

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A circuit board comprising a mechanism for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the mechanism comprising:
3 signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the circuit
4 board;
5 separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the circuit
6 board; and
7 identification means for identifying the mechanism;
8 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the mechanism
9 is detached from the circuit board; and
10 wherein after the mechanism has been detached from the circuit board, the
11 mechanism cannot be reattached to the circuit board.
- 1 2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means
2 comprises a wire trace.
- 1 3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation means
2 comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.
- 1 4. (Cancelled)
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1 5. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises an identification circuit.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises a visible identification code.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means is protected from being easily manipulated.

1 8-33 (Cancelled)

1 34. (Currently Amended) A circuit board assembly configured for provably
2 disabling the circuit board, the assembly comprising:
3 a circuit board comprising a tab having:
4 a proximate end connected to the circuit board;
5 a distal end opposite the proximate end; and
6 two opposing sides separated from the assembly by gaps;
7 an identification module situated on the tab; and
8 a signal conductor extending from the circuit board to the tab and configured to
9 convey a signal when the assembly is powered;
10 wherein removal of the tab at or near the proximate end so as to separate said
11 identification module from the assembly causes the signal conductor on the tab to be
12 ~~broken~~ decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board; and
13 wherein after the tab has been detached from the circuit board, the tab cannot be
14 reattached to the circuit board.

1 35. (Currently amended) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the
2 circuit board assembly cannot be powered if the signal conductor on the tab is
3 ~~broken~~ decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board.

1 36. (Currently amended) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein ~~one~~
2 ~~or more operating functions of~~ the circuit board becomes at least partially non-functional
3 ~~inoperable~~ when the signal conductor on the tab is broken decoupled from the signal
4 conductor on the circuit board.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein
2 the identification module comprises a hologram.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein
2 the identification module comprises a barcode.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein
2 the identification module comprises a sequence of characters.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein
2 the identification module comprises a chip.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, further
2 comprising an integrated circuit connected to the signal conductor.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein
2 the signal conductor does not extend to the distal end of the tab.

1 43. (Currently amended) A circuit board assembly comprising:
2 a signal conductor; and
3 a key removably connected to the circuit board assembly and comprising:
4 an identification module; and
5 a portion of said signal conductor;
6 wherein while said key is removably connected to the circuit board assembly a
7 plurality of gaps are defined between the circuit board assembly and said key; ~~and~~

8 wherein removal of the key from the circuit board assembly causes said portion of
9 the signal conductor on the key to be broken decoupled from the signal conductor on the
10 circuit board assembly; and
11 wherein after the key has been detached from the circuit board assembly, the key
12 cannot be reattached to the circuit board assembly.

1 44. (Currently amended) A circuit board comprising a key removably
2 connected to the circuit board, the key comprising:
3 a portion of a signal conductor configured to conduct a signal between the
4 key and the circuit board; and
5 an identification module configured to identify the key;
6 wherein the key is removably connected to a first portion of the circuit
7 board but is separated from other portions of the circuit board by a plurality of
8 gaps;
9 wherein the gaps facilitate detachment of the key from the circuit board;
10 ~~and~~
11 wherein one or more functions of the circuit board become at least partly
12 non-functional, including conduction of a signal by the signal conductor, if the
13 key is detached from the circuit board; and
14 wherein after the key has been detached from the circuit board, the key
15 cannot be reattached to the circuit board.